

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the Claims as follows:

1. (original) A method of screening or testing for candidate antifungal compounds that impair biotin protein ligase 1 enzyme (BPL1) function, comprising:
 - a) providing fungal BPL1;
 - b) providing one or more candidate compounds;
 - c) contacting said BPL1 with said one or more candidate compounds; and
 - d) determining the interaction of the candidate compound with said BPL1.
2. (original) A method according to claim 1 wherein the BPL1 comprises a fragment, a function-conservative variant, an active fragment or a fusion protein of BPL1.
3. (currently amended) A method according to ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 1 ~~or~~ 2, wherein the fungal BPL1 is from fungus of *Candida* or *Aspergillus* species.
4. (original) A modified eukaryotic cell(s) wherein the cell(s) expresses fungal BPL1 under the control of a heterologous promoter.
5. (original) The cell according to claim 4 which is a *C. albicans* cell.
6. (currently amended) The cell according to ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 4 ~~or~~ 5, wherein the BPL1 is homologous.
7. (currently amended) The cell according to ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 4 to 5, wherein the BPL1 comprises a fragment, a function-conservative variant, an active fragment or a fusion protein of BPL1.

8. (currently amended) A method of screening or testing for candidate antifungal compounds that impair biotin protein ligase 1 enzyme (BPL1) function, comprising:

- a) providing fungal BPL1 in a eukaryotic cell(s) as defined in ~~any one of claim[[s]] 4 to 7;~~
- b) providing one or more candidate compounds;
- c) contacting said eukaryotic cell(s) with said one or more candidate compounds; and
- d) determining the interaction of the candidate compound with said BPL1 by assessing the effect on growth or viability of said cells.

9. (currently amended) A compound identified by the method of claim[[s]] 1, ~~2, 3 or 8~~, which impairs BPL1 function for use as an antifungal compound.

10. (original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a BPL1 inhibitor and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

11. (original) *Candida* or *Aspergillus* BPL1 as a specific target for antifungal compounds.

12. (canceled)

13. (canceled)

14. (currently amended) The ~~use~~ method according to claim ~~18 12 or 13~~ wherein the fungal infection is a topical, mucosal or systemic fungal infection.

15. (currently amended) The ~~use~~ method according to claim 14 wherein the topical or mucosal fungal infection is caused by species of *Candida* or the systemic fungal infection is caused by species of *Candida* or *Aspergillus*.

16. (currently amended) The ~~use method~~ according to ~~any one of claim[[s]] 18 to 15~~ wherein said compound impairs fungal BPL1 function to a greater extent than host BPL1 function.

17. (new) A compound identified by the method of claim 8, which impairs BPL1 function for use as an antifungal compound.

18. (new) A method for the treatment or prevention of fungal infections in a host, which comprises administering to the host a therapeutically or prophylactically effective amount of a BPL1 inhibitor.

19. (new) A method for the treatment or prevention of fungal infections in a subject who is immunosuppressed, which comprises the step of administering to the subject a therapeutically or prophylactically effective amount of a BPL1 inhibitor.

20. (new) The method according to claim 19 wherein the fungal infection is a topical, mucosal or systemic fungal infection.

21. (new) The method according to claim 19 wherein the topical or mucosal fungal infection is caused by species of *Candida* or the systemic fungal infection is caused by species of *Candida* or *Aspergillus*.

22. (new) The method according to claim 19 wherein said compound impairs fungal BPL1 function to a greater extent than host BPL1 function.